

national cemeteries in Atlanta, Miami, Pittsburgh, Oklahoma, Sacramento, and Detroit. He also authorized legislation to expand the boundaries of Arlington National Cemetery, extending its useful life beyond the projected closing date of 2025 so that in-ground burials of veterans can continue until approximately the year 2041.

Mr. Speaker, this impressive record of legislative accomplishment has resulted in immeasurable good for veterans, servicemembers and their families. Bob Stump's leadership was the strongest kind—leadership by example. His lifetime of service to America left this country a better place, and I am honored to have served in the House with our departed colleague, Bob Stump.

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MR. STUMP, IT WAS AN HONOR TO  
KNOW YOU

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2003*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor a great American, a great Congressman and my friend, Mr. Bob Stump of Arizona.

Like my colleagues, my memories of Bob reflect an honest individual, and as true as the day is long. His departure last year was difficult, his death—sad.

I first met Mr. Stump when I was running for Congress. My predecessor brought me around to show me the Committee on Armed Services and to meet those I hoped would be my colleagues.

Bob, the chairman of the Armed Services, took a few minutes to visit, shared a few thoughts on his experience in Congress and we snapped a photo. It's kind of funny now, but that picture was used in my campaign brochure. One of my opponents was outraged that I would use the photo. He managed to call Chairman Stump, making him aware of the photo. He further asked Bob if he had endorsed me. Put in the corner, asked to judge

me by the few minutes we visited or to judge my opponent by the call he was now taking, Mr. Stump told my opponent yes, yes he would endorse me.

Of course we laughed about that story a couple of times but we always had plenty to talk about. Both Mr. Stump and my family were cotton farmers. We would talk about farming methods, the weather, a very easy give and take.

Every Thursday, at the prayer breakfast, Mr. Stump would be there in his western suit, boots and a smile, pouring coffee. Not a cup in the house was dry with Bob around. It was his job; it was something he wanted to do, he was a public servant.

I am fortunate to have known Bob Stump. I was fortunate to serve under his chairmanship on Armed Services and to now serve under his portrait in both the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Armed Services Committee. It is as if he is always looking over my shoulder, making sure my decisions are the right ones.

Mr. Stump's commitment to the warfighter is to be emulated. He was a shining example of a statesman and a fantastic public servant. A good man has left this Earth and we are going to miss him. I honestly believe that the House of Representatives, the institution and this country is better today due to Bob Stump's efforts. It was an honor to know you, Mr. Chairman.

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TRIBUTE TO THE LATE  
CONGRESSMAN BOB STUMP

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2003*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of recently-retired Arizona Congressman Bob Stump. Bob was not only a senior statesman and a great patriot, but he was a good friend.

Bob was tough and hard working, always willing to do more than his share. The day after his sixteenth birthday, he enlisted in the

Navy and later joined American forces in the World War II liberation of the Philippines and the invasion of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. After the war, he came home to attend Arizona State University and try his hand at cotton farming. His work ethic and humble nature served him well in politics.

Bob's long and distinguished career of public service spanned 40 years beginning with the Arizona State House of Representatives and Senate and ending as a senior member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Despite becoming the "dean" of Arizona congressional delegation and chairing the House Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services Committees, Bob preferred a low-key style. He was often seen opening constituent mail and answering the phone.

Nevertheless, Bob was effective. No member of the House Armed Services Committee could have performed as well as he in shepherding critical funding increases for our military after nearly a decade of neglect by the Clinton Administration. The 2003 defense budget appropriately bore his name: "The Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act."

One of the highlights of my career was serving as the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations while Bob was full chairman of the House VA Committee. Under his watch, we made great strides in overseeing the protection and well-being of the nation's 26 million veterans.

Bob was not afraid to take a stand when he knew it was in the nation's best interest. I'm reminded of the time he took to the floor to sternly defend the American flag in the face of court protection of desecration. "Anyone who burns a flag will have to deal with me," he warned.

As someone who regularly joined Bob for dinner, I was aware that he was suffering health problems which led to his retirement decision last year. I, and many others in the House, will miss his friendship. My condolences go out to Bob's family, friends, and former constituents.